

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 12 of page 12 with the following:

The battery 1 having the above structure is produced as follows: The electrode assembly 3 is fabricated, and the negative current collector plate 5 is welded to the bared core material of the negative electrode at one end face of the assembly. The assembly 3 is then accommodated in the outer case 2, and the negative current collector plate 5 is welded to the bottom of the case 2 by resistance welding. The gasket 12 is arranged to fit into the open end of the outer case 2, and the bottomed small diameter cylindrical portion 6 of the lid 4 is fitted into the open end of the case 2 and pressed toward the electrode assembly 3. The outer case 2 is caulked (or crimped) in this state at its open end from outside to form the fixing groove 13, so that the outer case 2 and the lid 4 are fixedly coupled with the gasket 12 therebetween in an electrically insulated and tightly sealed manner. Since the projections 4a of the lid 4 are making tight contact with the bared core material of the positive electrode at one end face of the electrode assembly 3 in this state, laser beam welding or the like is performed from outside the lid 4 to weld the projections 4a to the positive electrode core material. A predetermined amount of electrolyte is poured into the case through the hole 9 in the lid 4 so that the electrode assembly 3 is impregnated therewith, after which the hole 9 is tightly sealed with the sealing means 10, to complete the battery 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 14 with the following:

The lid 4 is fixedly joined to the open end of the outer case 2 by the fixing groove 13 that is formed by crimping (or caulking), with the gasket 12 interposed between the open end of the case 2 and the bottomed small diameter cylindrical portion 6 of the lid 4. Insulation and a seal are thereby provided between the outer case 2 and the lid 4 with a simple structure and a small number of process steps.